

Village of Arcola Receives \$6,750 Grant For Early Storm Warning Siren

The Village of Arcola received \$6,750 from USDA Rural Development during a celebration on April 22, 2005, at the Arcola Community Building. The grant funds will assist to purchase an early warning storm siren benefiting the residents in the Arcola area. The 911 Dispatch Center in Greenfield will partner with the Village and provide activation at the appropriate time.

Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee said, "I am very pleased to announce that Arcola will be receiving this grant. This new warning siren will help protect the citizens of Dade County in alerting them in the event of threatening weather. I will continue to work closely with USDA Rural Development to provide resources for lifesaving equipment for local communities across Missouri."



Picture: Left to Right: Bobby Kitsmiller Emergency Management; Congressman Ike Skelton; Greg Bramwell, Rural Development Manager; Patrick Morrow, Field Representative for Senator Bond; Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Charles Boehm, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Jerry Finley, Rural Development Area Director; Donald Danely, Board Trustee; Larry Wheeler, Board Trustee

Congressman Ike Skelton presented a mock check to the village and said, "As we know from the recent experience at Stockton, severe weather can be devastating to small towns. It is a pleasure to see the storm warning system installed in Arcola."

Jerry Finley, Area Director for USDA Rural Development, said, "An early warning storm siren is one of the first precautionary measures a community can utilize for the protection of their citizens. The addition of this siren will ensure advance warning that was non-existent. Rural Development is proud to be a partner in the protection of the residents."

Chairman Charles Boehm expressed his appreciation, "The Village would like to thank Rural Development for the Community Facility (CF) Grant which helped purchase the first storm siren for our community. We appreciate having this added protection during severe weather to ensure advance warning for our residents. The Village had just been pricing sirens with Bob Kitsmiller, Emergency Management Director, who redirected us to Rural Development Specialist, Greg Bramwell from the Carthage Local Office for assistance. Mr. Bramwell helped us apply for the Community Facility (CF) Grant resulting in a minimal cash investment from the Village."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community." Branum added, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Jim Hembree, Rural Development Manager, at 416 E. Airport Drive, Carthage, MO, 64836, or by calling (417) 358-8198 extension 4 or by email to jim.hembree@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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